

My name is Christina Servellon- Lagace. I live in Bristol, Connecticut and support HB 6517.

My son's name is Lennon. He is 7 years old and in the 2nd grade. Just like many other kids his age, he enjoys video games and sports. He loves doing fun family activities like swimming, going to the movies, and shopping at the mall with Mom.

Unlike the other kids in his class, Lennon has Dyslexia. Lennon was recently diagnosed and has begun receiving the appropriate reading intervention thru his IEP. While I cannot discuss the particulars, I can discuss how impactful structured literacy has been for my son. I can discuss the difficulties and the "grey area" of navigating thru the identification of his Dyslexia. I can discuss how having limited support and resources impacted his mental health and overall school performance.

In Lennon's case, Dyslexia was not the inability to read or write. He was struggling to grasp the fundamental concepts for reading because he lacked the appropriate instruction.

Year over year "LP," limited progress, was littered over his report card but, the approach to identifying the cause was nonexistent. His reading issues were tip-toed around and in some instances, fluffed. The red flags, dismissed. In fact, getting Lennon what he needed was spearheaded by me and forced me to leave fulltime employment because getting Lennon access to what he needed was time consuming. It ate up every waking hour of my life because the barriers Infront of us were ginormous.

Navigating the education system and the technicalities of the IEP process has left me exhausted and our whole family has been impacted. I urge you to take a look at the task force recommendations and make the needed changes to create equitable access to education for our kids. Their lives literally depend on it.

Kindly,

Christina Servellon Lagace